

# Go Ordnance!

e-newsletter

November 2003

## NET CALL - from the "Home of Ordnance"

by Capt. Brian Clarke

Fellow Warriors! The intent of this electronic newsletter is two fold. The first purpose is to provide ROTC and USMA cadet's insight into the role of an Ordnance lieutenant so they can make an informed branch decision. The second reason is to provide a forum for Ordnance LT's to keep abreast of current operations and their peer's role in the readiness of weapon systems, missiles, munitions, explosive ordnance disposal, or ground mobility material for the US Army. I remember as a cadet when I had to make my branch decision. I certainly did not feel I had a solid grasp of what each respective branch actually did. Additionally, I remember as a LT that I didn't have a clue what my peers were doing, what challenges they faced, what lessons they were learning, etc. (other than my peers within my own unit) Now, I don't feel that old but we really didn't use computers (like we do today) when I was a cadet and LT – we certainly did not use e-mail. Since we have the technology we might as well take advantage of it, so here you go, the "Go Ordnance E-Newsletter".

I'm not exactly sure what this will evolve into but I sincerely hope it benefits you as you make some critical career decisions. On that note, here is what my assignment manager shared with us on that topic:

- "You've got to be very careful if you don't know where you're going, because you might not get there."
- "If you don't know where you are going, you will wind up somewhere else."
- "If you come to a fork in the road, take it."

*Besides the obvious humor in these "Yogi-isms", they speak directly to the necessity of your involvement and for setting goals as we work the assignment process to help you reach those goals.*

My current thought process is to compile a number of articles from LT's in the field and other useful information. I intend to publish this e-newsletter every other month – how is that for throwing yourself in front of a bus. Please hold me to it and give me some feedback (good or bad) – I'm thick skinned or at least that is what my dogs think when they attack me every morning.

Go Ordnance!

*Capt. (P) Brian Clarke is a graduate of the University of New Hampshire. He has served as an automotive/armament platoon leader, assistant battalion S2/3, Ammunition Supply Point Operations Officer, EOD company commander, Officer Basic Course instructor and is currently the Ordnance Personnel Proponency Officer. His military schooling includes Ordnance Officer Basic Course, Combined Logistics Officer Advance Course, Combined Arms Service Staff School, Airborne School, Air Assault School, EOD School and Ranger School.*

The Ordnance Corps is a Combat Service Support branch that plays a vital role in the Army's ability to shoot, move and communicate. Ordnance officers ensure that the maximum number of weapons systems, vehicles, and equipment are operationally ready and available at all times; that the ammunition required for weapons systems and soldiers is at the right place at the right time and in the right quantities to support the warfight; and provides Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) support when required. Ordnance officers are skilled leaders and supervisors of large numbers of soldiers and manage large inventories of equipment and supplies.

OD Officers serve worldwide providing support to commanders at all levels. Where there is Army equipment and ammunition, you will find Ordnance soldiers and Ordnance officers. Ordnance officers are found at brigade, division, and corps level and in every type of unit - armor, mechanized, light infantry, airborne, air assault, and special operations. Typical OD assignments as a Lieutenant and Captain include leadership and staff positions from platoon leader to Company Commander. Promotions to Major and above will afford you greater opportunities to serve in positions of increasing responsibility, and Ordnance officers are as competitive for promotion as any branch in the US Army..

#### **91A Maintenance/Munitions Materiel Manager.**

Ordnance lieutenants are classified as 91A (Maintenance/Munitions Materiel Manager) when they graduate from BOLC III and will be assigned to units requiring a maintenance or munitions platoon leader. Those selected for EOD become 91E (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) officers after completing EOD training.

**Maintenance Materiel Management.** Ordnance officers serving in maintenance materiel management assignments train and lead maintenance soldiers, ensuring weapons systems are repaired and returned to service as quickly as possible. The Ordnance Corps is a key player in the readiness of all Army weapon systems and equipment (less aircraft, trains,

watercraft, and selected classified communications-electronics).

**Munitions Materiel Management.** Officers serving in munitions materiel management positions manage the lifecycle of the Army's conventional ammunition inventory. They become expert in the critical ammunition functions of storage, transportation, surveillance, quality assurance, maintenance, safety, and the operational and strategic management information (supply and command and control) systems used to manage and report munitions functions.

**91E Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD)** EOD officers are members of a highly trained team that identifies, renders safe, and disposes of US and foreign unexploded conventional, nuclear, and chemical munitions. EOD officers also advise and assist law enforcement and other civilian agencies in the latest handling and render safe procedures for unexploded military ordnance,

and they also help ensure the security of military and foreign dignitaries at conventions, sporting events, and special national or international events. NOTE: EOD duty is on a volunteer basis only - officers must first complete EOD training at the joint EOD Training Center at Eglin AFB, Florida. While there are only a handful of EOD positions available for Ordnance officers after OBC, opportunities increase significantly at the grade of captain, with three or more Ordnance officers accepted into EOD from Captains' Career Course. Officers from other branches are not accepted into EOD - if you want to be EOD, you must first be an Ordnance officer.

We are looking for high caliber individuals with diverse backgrounds from a variety of academic disciplines. If you enjoy leadership challenges and are ready to make things happen in an Army undergoing transformation, then you should . . . Go Ordnance !!!

## The Ordnance Corps



[www.goordnance.apg.army.mil](http://www.goordnance.apg.army.mil)

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# Testimonials

## Life as an Ordnance officer - “The multifunctional logistician”

I must admit life as an Ordnance officer has not been all that I expected it to be up until this point in my career.

The Officer Basic Course prepared me for the technical part of being a lieutenant but when it comes right down to it, you make your money as a platoon leader in personnel management.

Due to the fluid operating environment in the Republic of Korea, I have actually been assigned to a Quartermaster unit only because the Army knows



O r d n a n c e Warriors can handle any task thrown at them.

Although this is pretty rare, it will

only help me in becoming a more diversified leader and tactician.

In the past year I have been an XO, Accountable Officer/Platoon Leader of a 2,4,7 warehouse and finally finishing up as a Logistics Platoon Leader for a 49-soldier platoon

responsible for all bulk fuel and water operations in Area III, South Korea.

Recently, our battalion went through a Platoon Situational Training Exercise, which entailed a four hour convoy through congested, narrow roads of Korea to a location not farther than 5 kilometers from the most heavily defended border in the world, the DMZ.

Our mission was to conduct convoy operations to a designated location and defend it. During the week we were faced with attacks at all hours of the day, usually during the night, in conjunction with a real world mission to re-supply fuel and water to units at nearby training sites.

As ordnance officers we are taught the basics of ammunition and maintenance. In this mission those two factors were absolutely essential for success against the enemy. In addition, the re-supply of fuel and water were also essential for mission accomplishment.

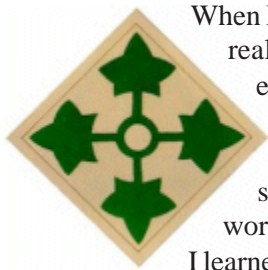
Keeping track of maintenance issues with equipment, ammo re-supply to the line, maintaining communications, accountability of personnel, sensitive items, fuel, and water were vital to the success of this multifunctional logistician.

--1st Lt. Adam T. Lusardi, 348th Quartermaster Company, 194th Maintenance Battalion, Camp Humphreys, Korea

## West Point grad selected Ordnance as first choice

Believe it or not, Ordnance was my first choice.

When I was a junior, I received Ordnance for my CTLT slot. I had no clue what Ordnance was or what it did.



When I arrived at Fort Campbell, I didn't realize I was in for one of the best experiences of my life. I shadowed a maintenance platoon leader and soon learned that maintenance soldiers are some of the most hard working men and women in the Army.

I learned that the soldiers were passionate about their jobs, loved to have fun, and were always willing to teach you about what they did.

After that experience, I wanted nothing more than to be an Ordnance officer.

Now, I am a maintenance platoon leader for Charlie Forward Support Company, 4FSB.

The FSC concept is a force XXI concept in which the support companies are collocated with their supported unit. We support 1-66 Armor.

I am responsible for the health and welfare of 91 officers, noncommissioned officers, and enlisted soldiers. My platoon consists of 3 CRT's (combat repair teams), Service Section, Recovery Section, and PLL. My platoon is able to conduct both organizational and direct support maintenance.

The unique organization of my unit has afforded me the opportunity to work side by side with my combat arms counter-parts, which has both positive and negative points.

Currently, we are deployed in Samarra, Iraq. While combat



operations for a combat unit are indeed different than operations in garrison, wartime operations for an Ordnance officer remain pretty much the same. No matter if you're training or doing the real thing, something is always going to break, and your soldiers will always have to fix it.

Iraq sucks, I'm not going to lie, but my soldiers and the soldiers of my supported unit are awesome.

I love being an Ordnance officer, I love my soldiers, and I wouldn't want to be in Iraq doing anything else. Some people avoid service support branches because they are not as sexy, or not as tough. However as warfare is today, all soldiers, regardless of branch will experience combat situations. The soldiers of my supported battalion (armor battalion) execute their patrols in M1 tanks. We perform 30-mile convoys daily with no armor.

If you're looking for a challenge, you will begin as a platoon

leader with responsibility for almost 100 personnel and more than 4.6 million dollars worth of equipment. That's more responsibility than some officer's get as company commanders.

When you finish that "entry-level" position, you can become a battalion maintenance officer or the shop officer, controlling not only your company's equipment maintenance programs, but also the maintenance programs for an entire battalion.

If you are looking for fun, your branch consists of many, many military occupational specialties. You will be able to learn about everything from welding to fixing engines, to blowing stuff up. What could be cooler than that? Go Ordnance!!

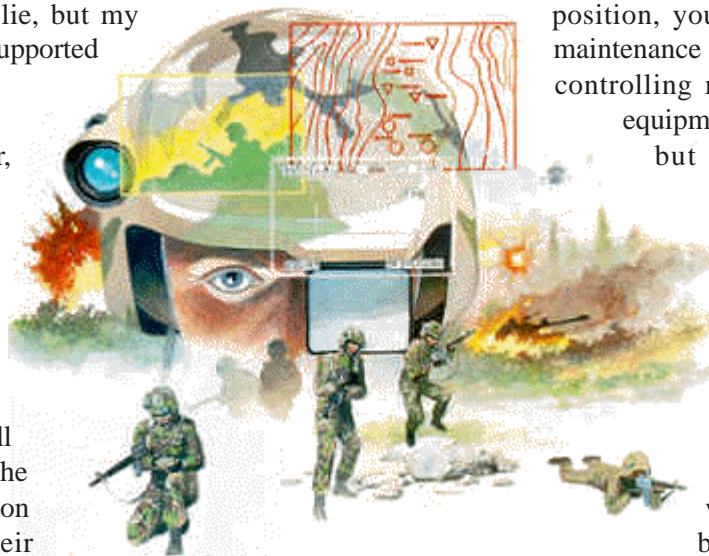
--2nd Lt. Josephine Holman, 4th Infantry Division

## ... more from Iraq

I am currently assigned as the 101<sup>st</sup> Forward Support Battalion's Operations Officer in the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Combat Team of the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division (Mechanized) from Fort Riley, Kansas.

The duties of the Forward Support Battalions Operations Officer (S3) include planning, organizing, and resourcing all real world missions and training events for the battalion; developing, integrating, and implementing all security operations for Battalion, Brigade Support Area (BSA), and its tenants units; planning and implementing the Battalion's Reconnaissance and Surveillance Plan; overseeing intelligence gathering, analysis, and dissemination for the Battalion, overseeing the Battalion Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical (NBC) operations; as well as planning and coordinating the Battalions ammunition allocations; and establishing and operating the Battalions Tactical Operations Center (TOC).

--1st Lt. Brian B. Kibitlewski



1st Lt. Kibitlewski and a bombed jet at Al Taqaddum Airfield, Iraq.

# Deployed with the National Guard in Bosnia

by 1st Lt. David Hintgen

Deployment is real in the Guard. I am currently stationed at Eagle Base, Bosnia-Herzegovina in support of Operation Joint Forge. I am a member of the 434<sup>th</sup> Forward Logistics Element (FLE), 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Minnesota Army National Guard. Our mission is to provide the Task Force Eagle with logistical, medical and maintenance support throughout the area of operation. My duty positions are the maintenance officer and the detachment executive officer.

The FLE maintenance section was taken from an MSB heavy maintenance company. I oversee a maintenance control section made up of senior NCOs and warrant officers. My job is to maintain the fleet operational readiness and to minimize down time. This job will test your resourcefulness and your ability to multitask. Prior to this assignment, I have never kept a day planner or "to-do-list". Now they are survival tools. Aside from green suitors, I work with many DA civilians from Army Material Command, Defense Logistics Agency, and the 200<sup>th</sup> MMC. Schoolhouse smarts are good but building and maintaining relations is paramount to success.

One unique opportunity in Bosnia is access to new and experimental equipment. The Balkans theater is home to many pieces of equipment that are not

found anywhere else in the world. Of course, these systems also present unique problems when they breakdown. Many pieces do not have NSNs and parts are hard to get.



The unofficial motto here is 'If you didn't drop it, don't pick it up.' Bosnia is still littered with thousands of landmines. A short walk on post will expose you to several UXO warning signs. EOD and the Brigade Engineers have an ongoing

and seemingly endless task of locating and destroying munitions. The task force hosts an event called active harvest. It involves going door-to-door and asking citizens if they have any weapons or munitions they would like to be rid of. Weapons, hand grenades, and ammunition are received from citizens daily!

Perhaps the most valuable experience here is working with the host nationals.

Local citizens perform a majority of the wrench turning and warehouse operations. They are very good at what they do. Many of them were professionals (engineers, lawyers) before the war and are willing to tell you their story. They have told us many first hand accounts from the war. On occasion, we have been able to tour the local cities and countryside. It provided for more opportunities to meet the locals and absorb some local culture.

It is rumored that US forces will be leaving here by the middle of next year. The EU has offered to take over the mission. Plans are in place to change the mission here from stabilization to transformation with an end goal of reducing the logistical footprint. Many speculate as to the effects of US forces leaving. But only time will tell as to whether or not post war Bosnia-Herzegovina will be successful. I know that when I leave I will be filled with a sense of pride and accomplishment. These feelings come by knowing that something I did, in some small way, helped Bosnia get back on the right track.





From Lt. Michelle Clausen:

Some of my friends wish they would have brought their laptops. One, because garrison does go on, even in Iraq. Two, assets are limited, and you don't want to stand in line to use someone else's computer—everyone has a suspense.

Cold weather gear, Speers (black underwear), nomax gloves, things like that. It is freezing here now, and cold weather issue is slow going for those who didn't have foresight to bring theirs because "it is the desert".

New boots, desert boots...you're an officer, buy your own. The soldiers here are literally walking around in boots that are being held together by tape and 550 cord because there are none in country. And if you do get some, you will end up giving them to a soldier because you feel guilty for having them. I know I had to go online and buy my own.

Shades, bring plenty.

Name tapes, patches, etc for your uniforms, sewing kits...in case you get the privilege of being issued new uniforms while in country. It was a big problem for our battalion. We got new uniforms and 90% of the Joe's didn't bring any extra name tapes, so they had to take them off of their old ones, defeating the purpose of getting an extra set.

## Some thoughts on what to take for deployment to Iraq

BIGGIE: Bring your own GPS. You can buy an E-Trek for a hundred bucks at Wal-Mart. I know my routes on my relentless convoys, but if I am hit, I will need to be precise on the grid in case of an evac. I would be shamed for life if I didn't know my location.

It is the same for Talk abouts (walkie talkies)..you can maintain positive

control and comms within your convoy by having talkabouts, because sometimes you will only have one radio, if that, on a movement. My unit has ICOMS, but it is better to have your own for backup.

Personally, since I have been here I have purchased a portable DVD player. The entertainment is slim here at Q-West, so you have to find ways to entertain yourself. Bring plenty of music, Dvd's....I know it sounds ridiculous, we are at war you say, but just bring it. You'll be on the internet like a fool trying to order it when you get here if you don't bring it.

Bring a football, a basketball, anything morale oriented....because you will need it.

Bring plenty of PT gear. I didn't think I would be doing a lot of PT because of combat and all...well, that was wrong. PT is a source of morale here, we do it a lot. There is nothing better than running at dusk here, alongside of an aviation brigade flight line. Makes you feel all warm and fuzzy inside.

I can't think of anything else off the top of my head. I wish I could be of more help, but this is the best I got.

The key to this place is using your resources, making friends, being able to know who to go to to get what you need in a hurry. To not be deterred by your circumstances and your location...there are a million ways to get stuff and make things happen. Just be aggressive, and stay positive, and motivated at all times—even if you have to fake it. You will have soldiers that have possibly been here for months, and you CANNOT let them see you NOT wanting to be here, or seem unmotivated, or even scared.

I was in the city once, and two police officers with AK47's starting running down both sides of my convoy in bumper to bumper traffic firing their weapons. My SAW gunner was literally seconds away from opening fire in a highly congested area full of civilians, and I was in the process as figuring out if my trail vehicle was getting attacked—violating all convoy SOP's of how to react to contact (much different when you're in the middle of it—takes discipline—much easier said "to drive out of the kill zone" knowing you're potentially leaving people behind you, I couldn't do it.) It all happened very fast.

It all turned out Ok, my soldiers were shaken up, but they all still had a pulse, and they are living to fight another day.



# FROM THE DESK OF THE LIEUTENANT ASSIGNMENTS OFFICER Mr. Al Cooper

## ***Greetings from the Lieutenant Assignments desk.***

Hello to all, I'm working continuously to answer your questions and work your issues. Please continue to contact me with all of your concerns, as I will ensure that your matters are addressed ASAP.

## ***Communication is Key:***

The assignment officer's main goal is to place the right officer at the right place at the right time. Thus, it's essential that you maintain positive communication flow with Ordnance Branch. You must ensure that we have your current home address, duty and home phone number, and of course your e-mail (AKO) address. By maintaining a relationship with Ordnance Branch, we will be better able to match your assignment desires with the needs of the Army. Check in periodically, your reassignment window opens about eight to ten months from your DEROS or availability date for overseas, and normally 36 months for CONUS based officers. Additionally, your assignment officer is a great source to ask questions reference OERs, career progression and preparing your files for boards.

## ***Branch Transfer Procedures:***

Lately, I've received multiple inquiries related to the branch transfer process. The process for requesting a branch transfer is simple. The final decision is the key factor here. Branch Transfers are handled case by case. Authorization, strength numbers and performance play a part in

the decision making process. A DA Form 4187 requesting branch transfer from Ordnance Branch to a given branch must be signed by the battalion commander. A Memorandum For Record (MFR) from the officer stating why he/she desires to branch transfer must be forwarded (you should include any personal/military experience if applicable). Letters of recommendation from the battalion commander (preferably 06s) or the first 05 in the chain of command are also recommended. The packet will then go to the losing and gaining branches for approval. Split decisions are forwarded to the DA-HRC Director of Human Resource Command for resolution. Contact your assignment officer to pre-coordinate your action.

## ***Captain's Career Course (CLC3):***

Officers will normally attend CLC3 after serving 36 months in the field. However, I'm authorized to send officers to the CLC3 after serving 24 months in the field in order to keep the course seats filled. This is the standard, but there are exceptions to defer attendance (real world contingency missions, foreign service tour extensions, rotation to support NTC, etc). Several officers are confused as to whether or not they incur additional ADSO for attending the CLC3. AR 350-100 states that any officer attending the CLC3 will incur an additional one-year ADSO upon completion of the course. Upon receiving an RFO or after receiving verbal or written (e-mail) notification, an officer has 30 days to accept or decline the PCS instructions. IAW AR 350-100, chapter 2(c), failure to

submit a request to decline the orders within 30 days implies consent to the assignment and the officer must comply with the assignment instructions. (Note: This commitment is three years if you are assigned to Europe following completion of CLC3.) One of my most frequently asked questions "when will I receive orders to the advance course?" In order to establish predictability to officers and units, the Ordnance Branch goal is to process CLC3 RFOs five to twelve months prior to the respective CLC3 report date. RFOs are sent electronically to the servicing Personnel Service Battalion (PSB). Preference statements reference follow-on assignment should be submitted during the first week of inprocessing the CCC3. The Captain's assignment officer will discuss follow-on assignments during the DA-HRC CLC3 visit. Assignment information is not available until the visit. Most officers will need an approved 4187 signed by your 06 prior to being scheduled for the course, to ensure appropriate coordination.

Tentative FY05 upcoming CLC3 classes only; CAS3 dates not available at present.

Class Date	Report Date	End Date
05-001	14 Nov 04	12 Jan 05
05-002	17 Jan 05	03 Mar 05
05-003	06 Mar 05	19 Apr 05
05-004	20 Apr 05	06 Jun 05
05-005	13 Jun 05	29 Jul 05
05-006	30 Jul 05	15 Sep 05
05-007	19 Sep 05	04 Nov 05

## ***FY04 Captain's Promotion Board:***

Ordnance Branch currently have 230 individuals going before the FY04 CPT promotion board. 127 out of the 230 (55.2%) competing have photos, and 126 (54.7%) have signed ORBs. In closing, one can clearly see why branch insists that officers maintain up-to date and complete personnel records. Be proactive for coming boards and nominative assignments.

# FROM THE DESK OF THE CAPTAIN

## ASSIGNMENTS OFFICER

### Capt. Doug LeVien

Greetings from the newly flagged US Army Human Resources Command (HRC) formally known as PERSCOM. On October 2, 2003 - PERSCOM in Alexandria, VA and ARMY Reserve Personnel Command (ARPERSCOM) in St. Louis, MO combined and became the US Army Human Resource Command (HRC). Eventually, the new command will integrate the two organizations as a multi-component field operating agency under the Army G-1. The integration will be transparent to you.

The intent of this article is to cover recent topics of interest to Ordnance Captains. As always, feel free to contact me via email or telephone if you still have concerns about any of the topics covered. Please share this information with your subordinates and peers.

#### **FY 03 MAJORS BOARD**

**RESULTS:** Ordnance branch had an above average selection rate this year. Primary zone selections (YG 93) for OD were 95.2%—QM-93%, TC-91.7% - the Army average was 93.8%. Last year's PZ selection rate for OD was 92%.

**PZ SELECTS (59):** The results show that an officer with a mixture of Above Center of Mass (ACOM) and Center of Mass (COM) OERs remains competitive. Successful command, regardless of the type, remains the most significant factor for promotion. The profile of all OERs received as a CPT, is as follows:

- 97% had a mixture of ACOMs and COMs.

- 3% had all ACOMs.
- 0% had all COMs.
- Eight officers were

selected for promotion with straight COM command reports, followed by an ACOM in a staff position. Two of the eight officers had COM command report, but took a second command with USAREC and received an ACOM.

**AZ SELECTS (15):** 15 of 33 (45.5%) OD officers considered Above the Zone (AZ) were selected. Last Year's AZ selection rate for OD was 29.5%.

- 7 had received a ACOM prior to the board.
- 6 had received a COM prior to the board.
- 1 had received a ACOM in a USAREC command prior to the board.
- 1 had received a six month COM command report.

- AZ selection for OD was extremely high at 45.5% — QM-28.2%, TC-30.4%, and the Army average was 38.2% — this is a common trend for YGs with less officers than the target (e.g.) YG 93 has 62 officers remaining, but has a target of 104 (60%). Compared to YG 94, which has 101 officers remaining with a target of 109 (93%). Thus, we could expect both the PZ and AZ selection rates for Major to be in the 86 - 91% range over the next five years, that is if the current manpower requirements remain constant.

#### **FY 04 MAJORS BOARD PREP:**

If you are in the zone of consideration for the upcoming

Majors board in April 2004, you need to start preparing your file now. It is now easier than ever to maintain your personnel file. Update your DA Photo now. Update your ORB with your PSB now. Ensure your physical (PULHES) data is within five years. If your Security clearance is more than 9 years old (SECRET) or 5 years old (Top Secret), submit your periodic update request to your local security manager to renew your clearance status. Your local security office must update your clearance. HRC assignment officers can't update that part of your ORB. I look forward to assisting you to get you ready for the board, but please make sure you do your part in getting your file ready for success!

#### **FY 04 MAJORS BOARD (Tentative) Zones of Consideration:**

Date of Rank to Captain

AZ 19970930 and earlier  
PZ (cohort YG 94) 19971001  
- 19980930  
BZ (cohort YG 95)  
19981001 - 19990930

#### **BACK TO BACK**

**DEPLOYMENTS:** My goal is to avoid back to back assignments to deploying units. I intend to accomplish this by assigning volunteers to deploying units; assigning recently redeployed officers to units not on the rotation schedule or to units that are returning within six months; and continuing to assign officers to Korea and other unaccompanied tour locations. Understand that some of you may be



assigned to units where current events dictate that you deploy back to back. If you think you fall into this situation, please contact me so that we can work your pin-point assignment.

**THE TWO R's....NOT THE THREE R's:** Many officers have e-mailed me desiring specific ROTC positions throughout the United States. However, I expect VERY few if any positions from cadet command. ROTC positions are not a current priority. Many of these positions are now starting to be

contracted out. Do not count on selecting an ROTC position.

**RELEASE TO YOUR FUNCTIONAL AREA:** Many officers have expressed interest in being released to work an assignment in their functional area (FA). Only a few of you will get this opportunity. I must meet the Army's worldwide requirements for OD officers before I can release officers to other FAs. I will work hard in concert with the Branch Chief to release officers for assignments in their FAs after looking at the OD requirements and

the number of officers available for assignment.

The 2003 HRC Acquisition Candidate Accession Board has adjourned and results are now awaiting final approval from the Director of OPMD. I will send notification to all officers whose files went before the board.

That wraps it up for this update. Thanks again for all you do for our Corps and our Army.

### Some thoughts on what to take for deployment to Iraq continued

I remember that I was completely calm at the time, but after it was over...I wanted to cry like a little baby. You just get overwhelmed with a million different feelings-kids, husbands- and the "dying" factor because very real at that moment. However, I did not cry. There is no crying in the Army. I replaced that emotion with pure, unadulterated ANGER, and it has carried me thus far.

There have been several events like that

since that first one, and it is crazy, but you get used to things you never thought you would. Explosions, gunfire, rocket attacks (a favorite of the enemy here at Q-West).

The bottom line is that you have to be strong for them—if you do anything at all. They are looking at you, whether you think they are or not. If you don't want to be there, they will not want to be there. If they do not want to be there, the mission will not happen.

Not everything is as dramatic as a potential attack, and this is the morale killer. Soldiers doing their routine jobs, and doing it 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It is literally like groundhog day here.

I wish you all the luck in the world. Don't forget that the war is not over here. It is not a joke. Keep your head on straight, be smart, do what they taught you and you will be fine."

## United States Army Ordnance Corps Association



### Ordnance Rocket and Howitzer Battery Veracruz, Mexico March 25, 1847

In March 1847, Major General Winfield Scott conducted an amphibious landing on the Gulf Coast of Mexico, just south of the port of Veracruz. Scott's forces encircled and besieged the town, which was a fortified, walled city of 15,000 inhabitants, further protected by a massive stone fort, the Fortress of San Juan de Ulua, located about 1,000 yards off shore. One of Scott's units was the Rocket and Howitzer Battery, commanded and manned by soldiers of the U.S. Army Ordnance Department.

Siege batteries were emplaced, and bombardment of the city commenced on March 22. The Howitzer and Rocket Battery's light 12-pound mountain howitzers were used to protect the infantry, which in turn were protecting the siege batteries. At about 10:00 PM on March 24, from a position on the beach at Punta Hornos forward of a factory or building referred to in American accounts as the "limekiln", the battery's rocketeers fired forty Congreve rockets into Veracruz. The fort at the southern end of the city (Fort de Santiago) returned fire, without apparent effect (no U.S. casualties).

<http://www.usaoca.org/stivers.html>

# Starting the new year with a new unit and deployed

by Lt. Dominik Nogic

Similar to many of my OBC 09-02 classmates, I was deployed to Southwest Asia almost as soon as I arrived to my first duty station at Ft. Carson, CO. When I reported in the beginning of January, I was assigned to the 183rd Maintenance Company, a non-divisional, DS Maintenance Company which is part of the 68th Corps Support BN and the 43rd Area Support Group. Fortunately I was able to step straight into a platoon leader slot with the Ground Support Equipment Platoon. My platoon in authorized 72 soldiers by MTOE and we operate and maintain 25 vehicles, trailer and generators, as well as an allied trades and welding shop, a communications and electronics maintenance shop and hydraulics and hose fitting shop.

First a quick synopsis of what we did. When we arrived in theater in the middle of January, we assumed the DS mission at Camp Arifjan in southern Kuwait, where we performed third shop maintenance for more than 150 customers. In mid April, we jumped to An Nasiriya, Iraq to assume the DS mission at Tallil Air Base. There we supported about 70 customers to include Marine and Air Force Units. We were relieved in place by another unit in the middle of July at which time we were to come back to Kuwait, hit the washrack, and go home. Unfortunately, we found ourselves in the wrong place at the wrong time as our company was split up and tasked out to perform various non-maintenance related mission across Kuwait. Our soldiers worked in the camp mayor cells at Camp Virginia, Camp Udairi, Camp Pennsylvania and Camp New York in northern Kuwait. These camps serve as reception and staging area for US and coalition troops moving in and out of theater. I, along with 12 other of my soldiers, have been

living at Camp Wolf next to the Kuwait City Airport doing reception, staging and onward movement of the multinational coalition troops moving through Kuwait.

Here are some lessons from this experience. One thing that this war should teach all of us is that while we are CSS officers, we must also be tactically and technically proficient war fighters. If you look at the types of attacks that are occurring in Iraq, they are not organized unit assaults. Instead, they are relying on asymmetrical hit and run tactics designed to find our weak spots and take us out one or two at a time. If you think that just because we are CSS that we don't have to worry about this, you are sadly mistaken and putting yourself and your soldiers at serious risk. The fact of the matter is that our supply convoys, recovery mission convoys, etc are extremely soft targets. There is no need to look much further than the 507th Maintenance Company, a non-divisional DS Maintenance Company. The reality is that when the stuff hits the fan, we are the ones that are ultimately responsible for the safety and survival of our soldiers. You must be vigilant and constantly remind your troops that they are soldiers, and thus, must take things like weapons maintenance and battle drills seriously. The tendency is to get lackadaisical, and that is the worst thing that can happen for a company in a combat environment. Complacency can and will kill. The moral, as boring and seemingly unrelated as LTD may seem, you need to take it seriously, because you will find yourself having to rely on that stuff on the battle field.

The second thing that I would say is that you should strive to learn as much as you can about the total Army while at OBC. It is a given that you are going to leave OBC with a sound basis in maintenance operations. This would

be enough is we worked in a vacuum and never had to do anything else but maintenance. Unfortunately, this is not the case. The nature of our job, especially in the non-divisional arena, is that we are a production oriented operation and we have a broad customer base spanning the entire gamut of the Army as well as other branches. This means that you will be interacting and serving all types of units with different missions and different needs. With a solid understanding of what different types of units do and how the Army operates of the battlefield, you will be able to better serve the customer and ensure that they as best prepared as possible. I see too many of my brethren who are completely clueless when it comes to what the Army actually does. The consequence is that there are serious disconnects between the people who are performing the services and the unit's whose very survival depends on these services. I suppose the point is that we must always be cognizant of the fact that the job that we do directly affects the battle, and if we have an understanding of what it is exactly that these units do, we can better support them.

Another reason that I stress the importance of learning about the Army as a whole is because in a combat environment you may very likely find yourself doing a job that has absolutely nothing to do with ammo or maintenance as I have found myself doing with this RSO mission. On many occasions, I have found myself making decisions about what kind of transportation assets are going to be needed to move a load, or the logistics of getting a load to its final destination in Iraq to include route coordination with movement control teams and MPs. Obviously, this is not something

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## REGIMENTAL PRAYER

*Our Father, we pray for the strength of mind, heart and body to continue to serve our Army and our Nation. Help us remember and emulate the heritage of excellence set by those who established, nurtured and led the Ordnance Corps before us. May the shell and flame continue to light the way toward selfless service, dedicated professionalism and passionate patriotism as we support our Nation's role as a leading force toward peace and liberty in the world.*

*Oh Lord, we ask that you provide us the wisdom to continually take charge of change and shape the Ordnance Corps to provide service to the line, on the line, on time. Guide us as we seek to establish our own heritage of courage and honor through our daily duties. Give us the strength to accept our responsibility to our fellow soldiers as we seek to fix and arm the force.*

*Oh God of Our Fathers, bless our efforts to provide the "Armament for Peace" and protect us if we must answer the call to arms to defend our faith, our liberty and our freedom. Teach us not to mourn those who have died in the service of the Corps, but rather to gain strength from the fact that such heroes have lived. Teach us to stand together in Your Name so that we may remain strong and that the Ordnance Corps shall remain the architect of readiness for our Army and our Nation. Amen.*

*The Ordnance Corps Regimental Prayer was written by Edward C Starnes and adopted officially by Major General John G. Coburn on March 4, 1994.*

### Starting the new year with a new unit and deployed continued

that you learn in OBC. However, little things like knowing the difference in capabilities of a HET and a PLS made it much easier for me to do my job and make the decisions that needed to be made.

Finally, I would recommend taking the time to really learn how to be a platoon leader. I know that OBC is geared toward making students a shop officer. While it is important to get a sound basis in this type of job, the reality is that very rarely will you step straight into a MCO job. Instead, you will be given a platoon or MST of mechanics and techs who know how to do their jobs better than you could ever hope to. But it really isn't necessary for you to know how to do what they do. What is necessary is that you know

everything that you need to know to take care of these soldiers. This requires that you know the difference between things such as a DA-638 and a DA-2166-8 and that you know how to fill them out correctly. The argument I always hear and one that I made myself is "I will figure it out when I get to my unit." I cannot stress enough the error in that mode of thinking. Yes, it's true that you will learn quickly once you get a platoon. But, what about the soldier that ends up getting short changed as you are still learning how to write a good award (DA 638) or that NCO who is going to get a two block instead of a one block because you do not know how to write strong, supported NCOER bullets (DA 2166-8). The point is that you need to have a sound foundation in this stuff before

you get to your unit. Use your time at Aberdeen to practice, so that you can help your soldiers as soon as you get to your unit. You are their direct link to the commander and they are counting on you to know what is required to help them get the things that they need.

I hope that this has given some insight, or at least caused you to reevaluate priorities. The reason that I have taken the time to put these thought and lessons on paper is because these are things that are going to make your life easier. They are things that in hind site I wish I could have done differently while at OBC. Enjoy your time at OBC, and be excited for what awaits you out there.



# An Ordnance Corps sampling on the web

**Ordnance Branch** - <https://www.perscomonline.army.mil/OPod/od.htm>

**Ordnance open assignments** - [https://www.perscomonline.army.mil/OPod/open\\_assignments.htm](https://www.perscomonline.army.mil/OPod/open_assignments.htm)

**217<sup>th</sup> Ordnance Company (EOD)** - <http://www.calguard.ca.gov/217eod/>

**Ordnance Munitions and Electronic Maintenance School** - [http://omems.redstone.army.mil/default.aspx?main\\_menu=true&menu\\_id=37&site\\_id=71&page\\_id=90](http://omems.redstone.army.mil/default.aspx?main_menu=true&menu_id=37&site_id=71&page_id=90)

**Building dedicated to fallen EOD heroes** - [http://www.centcom.mil/CENTCOMNews/Stories/09\\_02/2.htm](http://www.centcom.mil/CENTCOMNews/Stories/09_02/2.htm)

**EOD History** - <http://www.geocities.com/littlerockeod/eodhistory>

**EOD Support to the Olympics** - [http://www.first.army.mil/pao/2002\\_Articles/Guard\\_EOD\\_Winter\\_Olympics.htm](http://www.first.army.mil/pao/2002_Articles/Guard_EOD_Winter_Olympics.htm)

[http://companyteam.army.mil/ev.php?ID=5942\\_201&ID2=DO\\_TOPIC](http://companyteam.army.mil/ev.php?ID=5942_201&ID2=DO_TOPIC)

**EOD returns to “Ammo Alley”** - <http://www.bragg.army.mil/afvc-a/FRG/Desert%20Devil%20Dispatch/dddvol14.pdf>

**Integrating AIT Into Ammunition Logistics** - <http://www.almc.army.mil/alog/issues/MarApr01/MS616.htm>

**The Army Maintenance Transformation** - <http://www.almc.army.mil/alog/issues/SepOct02/MS838.htm>

**The Forward Repair System** - <http://tri.army.mil/LC/Ct/ardec/FRS%20News%202-17-00.PDF>

**Training the Forward Support Company Commander for Force XXI** - [http://www.quartermaster.army.mil/oqmg/Professional\\_Bulletin/1999/winter1999/training\\_the\\_forward\\_supportcomp.htm](http://www.quartermaster.army.mil/oqmg/Professional_Bulletin/1999/winter1999/training_the_forward_supportcomp.htm)

*To the line, on the line, on time!  
The United States Army Ordnance Corps*

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